TAMPERING WITH THE MAILS

Every Civilized Government Makes a Practice of Opening and Examining Suspicious Mail in Transit.

By EX-ATTACHE.

Much discussion has been taking place during the past few weeks on the subject of the inviolability of letters intrusted to the mails. The law requires that the letter should be respected. But the law likewise declares that the mails shall not be used, or rather abused, for purposes of fraud and crime. To prevent these the Post-office employs a corps of highly trained and extensively experienced inspectors, who constitute what is probably the most efficient branch of the United States Secret Service.

Thanks to them, many dastardly outrages and untold thousands of cruel swindles have been thwarted, as well as felonies detected and punished. But it is ridiculous to imagine that their work, which is of such inestimable advantage to the public, can be performed without examining the contents of suspected letters and thus violating the secrecy of the mails.

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Americans who have been raising their voices during the last few weeks in protest against the opening of any letter confided to the post, even by the United States inspectors, should remember all that these useful functionaries have accomplished in the way of the detection and the bringing to justice of wrongdoers and in the prevention of crime. They should also bear in mind that there is no government in the world, civilized or uncivilized, which does not exercise an analogous supervision over the mails intrusted to it for conveyance.

Theoretically, all the powers forming part of the International Postal Union are committed to the doctrine of inviolability of the mails. But not one of them adheres to it in practice. It goes without saying that the state cannot consent to promote the designs of malefactors by carrying their messages back and forth and by acting as a means of communication between them. That is why the postal department of every country is equipped with a bureau which is popularly known by the name of the "Black Cabinet."

Many statesmen have scoffed at the notion and denounced it as a myth, but others equally reliable have admitted its existence, their admissions, usually reluctant, receiving plenty of confirmation by hard, incontrovertible fact.

The Black Cabinet consists of that corps of men who are skilled in the art of opening letter and mail packages and of reclosing them without trace of their handiwork in the event of the contents proving harmless. Abroad, as also here in America, these inspectors of the postal department are men of considerable experience and acumen, who by dint of long training are able to form a pretty shrewd guess of the nature of the correspondence that passes through their hands.

Sometimes it is the handwriting, sometimes the postmark, or even the feel of the letter or the texture of the paper that attracts their attention.

One thing is certain: they seldom, very seldom indeed, make a mistake. One rarely hears of a perfectly innocent and harmless letter being tampered with in the mails, delayed, or lost. Honest, bona fide industry, trade, and finance seldom if ever complain or have any cause to do so. Criminals whose correspondence has been tampered with or has been stopped and confiscated likewise find it prudent to maintain a discreet silence.

It is only now and again that political antagonism or diplomatic indiscretion brings to light the fact that the mails are subjected to a constant, careful, and lynx-eyed supervision, and it is doubtful whether the people of the United States would have even thought of the matter had it not been for the recent controversy between the President and Senator Tillman in connection with the abuse of legislative franking privileges.

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Whereas here in America, crime consists solely of infractions of the law of the land, in most foreign countries, enmity, and even mere opposition to the government are construed as such. The border line between offenses that are political and those that are nonpolitical is so ill defined as to be almost imperceptible, and owing to the practice of certain political cults in resorting to felony and outrage to emphasize their views, to terrorize their foes, and to carry out their ends, it is difficult to blame the Old World police, and the postal inspectors of foreign countries, if their supervision of the correspondence of politicians committed to criminal methods, occasionally leads them to tamper with the mail of politicians who restrict their warfare against the government to purely constitutional means. The result is that the letters of any man of importance are liable to be opened and examined when passing through the foreign post-offices.

Of course, this assertion will be strenuously denied. But the fact remains that throughout the greater part of the last twelve or fourteen years of the nineteenth century, the correspondence passing between the members of the various factions of the Irish Home Rule party and their sympathizers and friends here in the United States, was subjected to the closest scrutiny at St. Martins-le-Grand, that is to say, the general post-office in London.

There was not an Irish politician of note in those days who did not have reason to complain that his letters had been held up, delayed, and investigated, and Sir Robert Anderson, so long the head of the criminal investigation department of Scotland Yard, and others associated with him in the watching of the militant element of the Home Rule camp, have virtually admitted in print and by word of mouth that it was through clews obtained from letters opened and examined in the post-office that they were enabled to frustrate dynamite outrages.

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Nor has the English government contented itself with watching the mails of those whom it had reason to believe to be connected directly or indirectly with warfare upon itself. It sometimes performs this service for foreign powers. From time immemorial it has offered an asylum within its borders for foreign political refugees. But it will not, if it can help it, permit them to abuse this hospitality by organizing on British soil outrages of a criminal character against friendly powers.

It may safely be assumed that all the correspondence of the Russian terrorists in England, of the Portuguese and Spanish Republicans, possibly that too of the advanced wing of the French royalists, is investigated when any of it happens to pass through the English mails; and we have official admissions that when Mazzini, that Italian arch conspirator, who aimed at the restoration of the Roman republic embracing all Italy, was living in London, all his letters were opened and examined at St. Martins-le-Grand.

In this specific instance it was done by virtue of a warrant issued by the secretary of state for the home department, Sir James Graham, at the instance af Lord Aberdeen, who was then minister of foreign affairs. The warrant bears date of March 1, 1844, and students of history may recall the bitter abuse lavished upon Lord Aberdeen and Sir James Graham for having communicated to the Neapolitan authorities the news discovered in the post-office, in a letter addressed to Mazzini, to the effect that his friends and associates, the brothers Bandiera, were about to make a descent from Corfu upon the coast of Calabria, with the object of starting an insurrection against the Bourbon crown. Thanks to this warning, the police and the troops of the King of Naples were fully prepared for the arrival of the Bandiera brothers and of their revolutionary adherents, captured them on landing, and promptly put them to death.

To-day the members of the brothers Bandiera is throughout the length and breadth of the peninsula as martyrs to the cause of Italian unity. It is worthy of note that old Prince Clement Metternich, then chancellor of the Austrian empire, complained in writing of having received no intimation in advance from the English government about this Bandiera raid. The tone of his complaints, as contained in his published correspondence, is of a nature to confirm the belief that while the English authorities had neglected to apprize him of the Bandiera coup, on the ground that it concerned purely the Neapolitan government, they nevertheless kept him fully posted on everything relating to the North Italian and Hungarian plottings against Austrian rule; at any rate on everything they happened to learn through the examination of Magyar and Irredenta correspondence passing through the English mails.

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In France, as recently as four years ago, the then Prime Minister Rouvier openly declared in the senate that the Cabinet Noir, which had been particularly active during the administration of his predecessor, Edgar Combes, no longer existed. He thus publicly and officially admitted that there had been such a thing as a Cabinet Noir during the premiership of Combes. He was good enough to add that "letters are no longer opened by the judge d'instruction." That was a superfluous remark; for as a general rule letters are not opened by magistrates, but, as I have intimated above, by a particularly experienced and highly trained corps of experts in that particular business.

The Cabinet Noir has always thriven in France, under monarchical as well as under republican governments. It may be said to have come into existence in the reign of Louis XI, who in 1464 established the first postal service, but who decreed that all letters were subject to the supervision of the grand master of the police, in order that he might assure himself that there was nothing contained therein contrary to the commands of the sovereign.

Cardinal Richelieu caused this edict to be repealed; but under the pretense of emancipating the mails from the control of the police, inaugurated a far more effective but secret black cabinet bureau. He used to take a delight in thus making himself the master of the contents of letters passing through the mails, until he came across a missive addressed by Anne of Austria to one of her relatives in Vienna, in which she made such cruel fun of the prelate's foibles that it resulted in the first of those fits of apoplexy to which he eventually succumbed.

Louis XV maintained a staff of no less than two score officials, whose duty it was each night to open at the general post-office in Paris letters attracting their attention, and to transcribe as rapidly as possible all the scandal, the gossip, the revelations, and the interesting personalities which they contained. This was compiled into a sort of society journal, which was brought to him every morning in bed, and its contents would form the subject of his conversation with his confidants and courtiers while the "petite levee" was in progress. He cared nothing for political secrets. But he was perfectly delighted in being thus able to originate gossip and to launch scandal, and may be regarded as the father and founder of society journalism.

Louis XVIII was equally devoted to the Black Cabinet, and was never so happy as when through its means he could get on to the track of some scandal affecting the honor of the Bonapartes. There are official records to show that he spent no less than $120,000 during his brief reign for providing his Cabinet Noir with duplicate seals, with which to reclose letters that had been opened, and thanks to the memoirs and reminiscences of some of the government officials whom he employed in this work, one is able to appreciate the fact that scarcely anything was allowed to go through the French mail in those days without its being brought to his knowledge.

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The Cabinet Noir was in full activity throughout the reign of Napoleon III, and that the overthrow of the empire in no way arrested its operations is shown by the following amusing little incident, which occurred about ten or fifteen years ago, and was ventilated at the time in the Chamber of Deputies. One of the members of that body having left home without his purse borrowed 100 francs from a fellow-legislator. On reaching home that night he mailed a brief note of thanks along with a 100-franc note, to his friend. That is to say, he fancied that he had inclosed the money. But on the following afternoon when gathering together his papers before leaving for the chamber, he found the 100-franc note in question, which had in some way slipped out of sight among the documents with which the table was littered.

As soon as ever he reached the Palais Bourbon he hastened toward his friend and tendered him the 100-franc note, apologizing for his remissness in failing to inclose it in the letter. "But I have received it," was the response. "Here is your letter, and the 100-franc note inclosed is still in my pocket." The bank note, however, was of quite a different series to those in the possession of the sender of the letter, and an exceedingly careful scrutiny of the envelope finally brought to light the fact that it had been opened in transit.

Further investigation developed the fact that the missive had been opened and read in the Cabinet Noir of the general post-office, and that the inspector, evidently under the impression that he himself had dropped the 100-franc bill mentioned as inclosed therein, and that its disappearance en route would result in legislative charges of tampering with the mails, had inserted of his own accord a 100-franc note, charging it to the secret service fund. The ridicule and laughter excited by the affair prevented any serious action being taken; and for nearly a year afterward the post-office was burdened with fake letters, purporting to contain money, in the hope of extorting thereby 50 and 100 franc notes from the Cabinet Noir.

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It may be of interest to add a few words as to the manner in which letters are opened by the Black Cabinet, all the more as the art of opening envelopes without leaving trace of their having been tampered with is but little known. In some instances a knife is inserted just beneath the seal, which is deftly removed, and then pasted on again after the envelope has been ungummed and pasted up again.

Sometimes a fresh seal is made; for the equipment of a Black Cabinet comprises stamps and seals of almost every conceivable description. And there are few red or black wax seals of any importance that pass through its hands, of which an impression is not taken in soft wax. But in the majority of cases, especially when there are a large number of letters to be examined, the procedure is of a much more summary and yet of a much more ingenious character. The envelope is slit with an exceedingly sharp and thin steel knife. It is slit at one end; that is to say, not quite at the end, but within an eighth of an inch of the fold, and the cut is made with the knife held in a very slanting position, so as to leave the largest surface of lip possible to the two edges of the cut paper.

Through this slit the letter is extracted, read, and then replaced, paste of a special character prepared for this purpose being thereupon applied to the two lips, which are closed together, leaving as little trace of any scar as a well healed cut or scratch on the skin. It is on the face of the envelope and not on the back that the slit is usually made; and an additional postmark or two, perhaps a slight smudge as well, serve to efface the trace of the violation of the letter so completely that it would require almost a microscope to discover where the cut had been made. Besides, people who apprehend that their letters may be tampered with almost invariably examine the seal and the back of the envelope and its folds. Few, save the initiated, ever dream of looking for the trace of any cut on the face of the envelope.

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Some governments do not even take the trouble to deny the existence of a Black Cabinet. Thus, the late Prince Bismarck in the course of an interview with one of the editors of the Neue Freie Presse, the leading Viennese newspaper, in September, 1897, that is to say, some years after he had left office, did not hesitate to boast of the assistance which, while in office as chancellor, he had derived from the officials of the Black Cabinet of the postal department at Berlin.

Three years ago it was officially announced in Russia that Messrs. Rentzky, Dragonmoff, and Faber had been intrusted with the reorganization and enlargement of that bureau of the postal and telegraph department at St. Petersburg to which is confided "the examination of all suspicious matter passing through the mails," while on at least three occasions in recent years envoys have had to be recalled, because the government to which they were accredited had managed to ascertain, by tampering with their correspondence, that the opinions which they entertained of the authorities of the country in which they were stationed was the reverse of complimentary.

The most recent and notable instance of this kind was that of M. Bompard, who while French Ambassador to Russia, was foolish enough to confide to the mails for transmission to Paris a personal and private letter, in which he referred very slightingly to Muscovite official integrity, and gloomily on the subject of Russian economic prospects.

It is to avert contretemps of this kind that more experienced and discreet diplomats invariably confide correspondence containing information and remarks of this character to those agents of their own government who in the case of England are known as king's messengers.

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CHILD LIFE CONSERVATION

VII—CHILDREN WHO WORK.

By FREDERIC J. HASKIN.

There are now engaged in gainful occupations in this country, according to the most recent figures, slightly over 2,012,500 children under fifteen years of age. That many children are earning their own living, and, in the majority of cases, supporting or helping support someone else. They are working on farms, in factories, mines, mills, mercantile establishments, theaters, households, restaurants, and almost any other place where a child can be used. It has been stated by those interested in restrictive legislation that the demand for child labor is increasing instead of decreasing.

While it is a sad commentary on this progressive nation that its commerce must depend so largely on child labor, and while child labor of a hurtful nature in any civilized community is a disgrace to that community, the reformers have usually overlooked the fact that the greater part of these children are engaged in farm work, where, while the hours are long, there is a continual outdoor life. Of the 2,012,500 child workers, 1,221,266 are working on farms. Two-thirds of these young agriculturists are in the South, and there are four little negro workers there to every three white ones. The professional world claims over 3,000 children in its work; trade and transportation demand 141,000 more, and manufacturing and like mechanical work use 326,450. Of the factory workers under fifteen, there are, according to these recent figures, something over 200,000 in the North, and over 54,000 in the South.

It is in the interest of the 328,000 or more young people employed in manufacturing industries that public sentiment is exercising its power so much of late. It has done much to ameliorate bad conditions, and expects to do more. The latest consensus of opinion on the matter is to the effect that "only 50,000 are now working under unsanitary conditions." Even when one considers the enormous strides that have been taken in the betterment of the factory worker within the past ten years, this number is still too big to be allowed to stand. This number is exactly half as much as the maximum strength allowed the entire United States army, and if preserved to healthy, happy, normal womanhood and manhood, these citizens, in their intellectual, social and moral development, would offer a better support to the government and its institutions than could be effected by the fighting force 100,000 strong.

The revolution in the interest of child workers is not an old one. The census of 1890 first brought the matter to the notice of the people, though the census of 1880 had showed over a million children working, and the previous one over 700,000. When public sentiment does awaken in the United States it does it with a thoroughness and an abruptness possible only in a country where freedom of speech and freedom of press are constitutional privileges. When the census of 1900 came out, people of altruistic nature and social reformers of the better type began dignified and just investigations. At the same time muck-rakers saw their opportunity and rushed gleefully to the front to publish more misinformation and offer a greater number of disterted facts than have ever been offered on any one subject.

In the North, South, East and West, mill and mine owners were beseiged with tracts, reports and catechisms by mail, and well-meaning, though often misguided catechists in person. Everybody wanted to lend a hand in straightening out the matter, and out of their mingled good will and ignorance grew much confusion and much unjust criticism of both the employer of child labor and the would-be reformer. All this interest gradually crystallized in an organized effort on the part of manufacturers, legislators, labor organizers, women's clubs, and broad-minded citizens to obtain legislation that would control, to some extent, this great evil of child labor.

Now, in this good year of grace 1909, we see laws protecting children workers in practically every State and Territory in the Union, two or three Western divisions having not yet reached the need of such laws. Thirty-seven of these States and Territories, and the District of Columbia, enacted these laws within the seven years following the last census, and last year the legislatures of twenty-odd States either enacted new laws or amended old ones.

Why are children working? That is what everybody is trying to find out. Over a year ago Congress appropriated $500,000 for a thorough investigation of the condition of women and child workers throughout the nation. A corps of skilled workers has the matter in charge, and by next fall or winter a comprehensive report will be offered on the subject. A recent private census on this point was made by a Southern club woman. She visited twenty representative mills in the South, asking always, "Why are children working? Do you want them to work? Who is forcing them to labor?" The answers brought out such facts as these:

The majority of the children in those mills were working to support themselves, and sometimes the whole family. They had come from families of poor whites where the father was incompetent to support them, or, worse still, was too lazy. Many were working because the father refused to contract any members of his family to the mill unless all were taken. A few had been brought by their working mothers because there was no place to leave them, and it was argued that a child was safer in the mill under the supervision than on the streets alone. A few came with the consent of their parents to earn money to spend as they pleased.

Fourteen managers in these twenty mills preferred no children under thirteen or fourteen. They found them wasteful, and more of a hindrance at times than a help. Two frankly preferred child labor to adult labor, and said the sooner they could get the children and train them the better, because their fingers were nimbler. The other four hadn't been in the manufacturing business of those sections long enough to have proved either the efficiency or wastefulness of child labor. The majority seemed to be at the mercy of avaricious parents who wanted to put their children in the mills, who wanted to make every cent from their work they possibly could, and who were continually threatening to move away if all the children were not employed. The varying age limit in the States having child labor laws makes possible a regular migration from place to place. For example, Tennessee allows no children under fourteen to work in mills and mines. Alabama's age limit is twelve, so there is a continual migration of workers across the border, making the average mill population in the South a floating one.

It is this wide variation in the child labor laws of the land that caused Senator Beveridge last year to endeavor to have Congress legislate in the matter. Where England or a country of continental Europe has a law restricting child labor that can be enforced throughout its borders without conflict, there are nearly as many laws on the subject in this country as there are States and Territories. It was for this reason that the Senator from Indiana endeavored to have this Federal bill passed under the constitutional authority delegated Congress in the matter of interstate commerce. As it touched the ever-tender spot of "State's rights," the measure was defeated.

Last year the American Academy of Political and Social Science had an expert frame a uniform child labor law that it hoped all States and Territories would eventually adopt. Now the age limit ranges from practically none in South Carolina and ten years in Georgia up to that of Ohio, that allows no girl to work until her eighteenth birthday. The length of the working day varies from New York's nine-hour law, with an hour out at noon, to more than ten hours in Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee. Six States have the nine-hour day; twenty-four have the ten-hour.

Work at night may be conducted at the discretion of the manager in some States. In eighteen it is restricted to the sixteenth birthday. The educational standard is being set in almost every State. This is a remarkably advanced step when it is remembered that there are only two Southern States that have compulsory education laws, Kentucky and Maryland. These varying laws require that each child who works in the mills must have had a certain amount of education, or must have attended school a stipulated time. As there are in the United States 570,947 illiterates between the ages of ten and fourteen, and the majority of these are in thirteen Southern States, the wisdom of this step is apparent.

Modern altruism is trying in other ways besides legislation to get children out of gainful pursuits and into schools that will train them for better work. As far back as 1880, when an inspector was trying to enforce the Massachusetts child labor laws of 1866, he made this statement: "Without child labor 10 per cent of the laboring class, with the present relation of wages to the cost of living, would be in a state of debt and pauperism." Something of the same condition exists at the present time.

In New York various societies are finding the children who must work to support others, and are placing "scholarships" in that family. They placed ninety-five last year, which means that they paid to the parents the sum the child would have earned, and put that child in a good elementary or trades school. Philadelphia organizations gave twenty-eight such scholarships last year. St. Louis places them through the Children's Protective Alliance and the women's clubs. Pittsburg, Minneapolis, Kansas City, Indianapolis, Baltimore, and Milwaukee, all pursue similar plans. Since children must work, modern altruism argues that they should be trained for it, be protected in their tender years, and then at fourteen or sixteen, be allowed to become a wage-earner. They point out the fact that of the 20,000,000 children of school age in this country, 5,000 are deserters every year, that a big percentage of that number claims that training for their hands is lacking, and they must learn it by apprenticeship, with forty cities now offering manual training in the schools, the percentage should be lowered.

In the twilight of the gods, so the Norse legend tells us, Fenris, the great wolf-being will come down and devour the loveliness of the world. Is the nation not acting wisely in attempting to ward off this twilight by preventing modern industry, like Fenris, to come and devour its little children? For are not children the loveliness of the world?

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To-morrow—Hero and Honor Medals.

DOGS ON EXHIBITION AT MADISON SQUARE SHOW.

Some of the fine animals which attracted attention. The large dog shown is a Russian wolf hound. Mamie, the smallest dog, is shown below.

SOME ROYAL SPENDTHRIFTS

Nobility Often Lands in the Bankruptcy Courts of Europe.

Kaiser Latest to Find Himself in Financial Trouble—Civil List Increased.

The Kaiser is threatened with bankruptcy. Ever since last April the financial position of the German Court has been shaky and efforts have been made to obtain an addition to the Emperor's civil list.

Things have reached such a pass that he has offered to sell the castle and estate of Erdmannsdorf, in Silesia, for $450,000. Four other imperial castles are also to be put on the market, and it is hoped that if purchasers can be found for all five lots the present urgent difficulty will be tided over, says the Baltimore Sun.

The reason given for the proposed addition to the civil list is that the cost of living in Germany has greatly increased of late years. There is no doubt that his majesty's expenses have increased, but this is very largely owing to his own extravagance, his costly journeys, and the lavish pomp maintained in all state occasions.

Then one of the Emperor's weaknesses is to be the owner of a large number of palaces, and in this direction he probably holds the record. He owns at least fifty of varying size and splendor, and this year he has spent about $500,000 on Achilleion and Hohkoenigsburg, while in Posen he is building another, estimated to cost $250,000.

Royal finances seem to be in a very bad way just at present. The other day the Shah of Persia was pawning his jewels, and just a little earlier Abdul Aziz, ex-Sultan of Morocco, was frantically trying to pawn his jewels in Paris. They included several diamonds as large as hazel nuts, emeralds, rubies, and several pearl necklaces. They cost the Sultan little short of $500,000, but all he could raise on them was paltry $300,000.

King Leopold is still hampered by the debts he contracted in his young days and it is said that it will take years to free his majesty finally from this incubus. The most drastic economies have been brought about in the royal palaces.

There have been reforms in the English palaces, too, for immense sums of money appear to have been wasted on innumerable trifles during Queen Victoria's reign.

One day, while the Queen was driving, the royal coachman was taken ill. Her majesty called for brandy, but there was none to get. Eventually, they returned to the palace, were orders were given that a bottle of brandy should always be placed in the royal carriage before the Queen went out. This, of course, was done; but, owing to the fact that a fresh bottle of brandy was placed in the carriage nearly every time it was taken out, the expense of the Queen's thoughtful order soon became rather heavy. This drain has now been discontinued.

When the Queen was in residence at Windsor it took no less than $2,500 a day "to light the kitchen fire," to use the phrase current among the castle servants. These servants, too, were kept up in unnecessary numbers, as a single instance will show. Three "chocolate women" were kept, who had nothing else to do but prepare the one cup of chocolate a day that was served to Queen Victoria when she was called in the morning.

Another expensive item in the old royal household was the bill for candles. No candles that had once been lighted, if only for a few minutes, was ever again used.

The financial difficulties of the Portuguese royal house are being slowly straightened out, and since the sale of her pawned jewels and clothes Princess Louise of Belgium has been financially lying low.

King Peter of Servia, too, is worried about money, and he can hardly ask for help from his government, for it, in its turn, is half crazy over the debts that Alexander left behind him. One creditor alone is claiming $500,000.

The democratic spirit of Switzerland was proved when a Swiss court sentenced Princess Alexandra of Buedingen to three weeks' imprisonment because she did not appear in bankruptcy proceedings brought against her.

Another royal bankrupt is a nephew of Queen Emma of the Netherlands. Prince Eberwein took the castle of Oud-Wassenaar and furnished it in splendid style. Soon after the agents of a London tailor seized the furniture.

FARM WORK AS PLEASURE.

Agriculture Lacks Interest When Nature Is Not Heeded.

The field might just as easily have been beautiful as ugly and have fallen in with the general plan of the landscape just as readily as a natural meadow or clearing among the trees, says the Craftsman.

It would have been just as fertile and just as easy to work if we had taken account of the farm as a whole and had planned it as carefully with relation to the natural features around it as we would now plan a landscape garden; that the skill to do so would, of course, have been very limited does not enter into the case; the point is that the interest would have been there. It would have been a delight, a peace of real creative work instead of drudgery to be done as soon as possible that there might be some little time left for the pleasure which was regarded as a separate thing.

The fact that pleasure is always considered a separate thing from work on the farm is the whole root of the matter. To the city man or the man who has gone back to the farm for peace and relief from other cares the work in itself is the pleasure. If the interest of the farmer could once be roused to the point of finding that same pleasure for himself and teaching his children to find it, there would be no need of all this talk and effort to prevent the exodus from the country to the city. And if the agricultural schools could succeed in giving to the country boy sufficient knowledge of the interest and significance that really lies in every stroke of work he does; of the active mental effort that should go into farming as well as into any other form of business, we should no longer have to complain of the falling off of our agriculture as compared with our manufactures.

CALLS WIFE INSANE.

Peter Nelson, a wealthy Brooklyn artist, and his wife, who, he alleges, is insane because she had planned to elope with John Bohlin, an old friend of the family.

TEXAS IS NOW WELL BEHAVED

No Guns and Little Liquor Sold in the State.

Spurs and Broad-brimmed Hats Still Popular, but Revolvers Scarce in Lone Star State.

Galveston, Feb. 27.—If any considerable number of Northerners still continue to think of the typical Texan as a booted and spurred citizen with a broad brimmed hat, carrying a gun in one hip pocket and a flask in the other, it is up to them to look for light on the subject.

Spurs are in evidence in the Lone Star State, for almost everybody rides a pony. Broad brimmed hats are popular, for the stranger who arrives here with a derby soon finds that the boiled hat, as it is locally termed, is extremely uncomfortable where the grass is green and the roses bloom all winter; but the other characteristics are less prominent.

You can't buy a new revolver in Texas. That does not mean that nobody carries one, but there is a State tax of 50 per cent on the gross retail price, which deters the local merchant from replenishing his stock of revolvers, and incidentally has proved a boon to the big mail order houses outside the State.

As to the carrying of flasks, it is hard to say what the condition is going to be, for the question of State prohibition is this year the chief issue in politics. Already Texas is about two-thirds dry, under local option, more than half the counties in the State having decreed the cessation of the liquor trade, and many of the cities and towns in other counties having followed suit.

In addition to this there has been a strong effort in certain cities where a sufficient vote could not be obtained to suppress the traffic entirely to confine the saloons to certain districts. Such an effort here in Galveston was supposed not long ago to have been successful, and by popular vote the saloon was barred out of what are known as the residential districts. Recently, however, the Court of Appeals has decided that an ordinance of this kind, discriminating as it does between individuals in the same business in the same community, is unconstitutional, and it is now proposed to get over this difficulty by procuring the insertion of a new clause in the city charter.

The intensity of feeling on the question is hardly to be overstated.

"I have been a Texan ever since I left college, twenty-five years ago," said Mr. Hedges, editor of the Galveston News, "and I haven't seen anything like it since 1885. At that time there was a bitter struggle for prohibition, and public feeling was so high that families were rent asunder, brother being arrayed against brother and father against son. Since then there has been less strife, but this year the conflict is more bitter than ever. The vote is likely to be so close that no one can forecast the result."

Legal Robe and Cap.

"The black robe and the cap belong to the outfit of a lawyer in the German metropolis," writes an American tourist from that place, "and when the lawyer attains the dignity of judge the collar on his robe is changed from silk to velvet. When this law providing for the 'guard of dignity' was passed the prescribed dress for practicing attorneys included a white necktie. Years ago this custom ceased to be observed, because, as lawyers tell me, it was expensive and troublesome. There is one judge in Berlin, however, who insists on the proper dress, and lawyers who appear before him must expect, if neckties be black, to be turned away with the remark: 'Your cravat is not white.'"

RONDEAU.

I wish I could, but then I know I can't.
So why should I for things beyond me pant?
Why yearn for toys of vanity and pride,
Gewgaws that are to most of us denied?
To rail on Lady Fortune's not gallant?

Scant must be my coat if my cloth is scant;
If slim my diet, then I need not bant.
Content with what I have I should abide.
I wish I could.

Of cares of wealth I now am ignorant;
Some vices, too, might affluence implant
That I am free from. Were my wants supplied
I doubt that long I should be satisfied.
I cannot be contented now, I grant.
I wish I could.

—Chicago News.

LARVAL FORM OF EELS.

Discovery for Which Science Is Indebted to Strait of Messina.

From the London Daily Telegraph.

The straits of Messina are channels of immense depth, through which a wild tide surges, and owing probably to irregularities at the bottom, there are whirling eddies which have the effect of bringing up from the depths below many marine creatures which are rarely seen except in the deep sea trawls. It was here that the larva, form of a fresh water eel was first discovered, an incident which threw a blaze of light on the life history of a very mysterious fish.

All kinds of theories have been given forth with regard to the propagation of the eel. Some naturalists declared they bred in fresh water, others that they visited the estuary for spawning purposes, but, thanks to the discovery of Messina and later capture of the eel in its larval form, it is now practically certain that after mature eels drop down our rivers in autumn they hie them to exceedingly deep water in the sea, and there deposit their eggs. From the eggs comes a little ribbon-shaped creature, the larval form.

In due course this changes into an eel of still smaller size, strange to say, and these small eels or elvers afterward ascend our rivers, and there remain until they reach maturity, when they in their turn descend to the sea and history is repeated.

Pink Rambler Roses.

From Town and Country.

The crimson rambler has suddenly come into fashion abroad, and in all the recent accounts of functions in London one reads of its being employed as a decorative bloom. It has been a great favorite in this country for some years, but the pink species is now beginning to rival it. In June and early July one sees it all through the suburbs, and it has quite taken the place of the honeysuckle, the Virginia creeper, and other climbers for summer house and trellis coverings. Some years ago it was introduced by the florists here as a potted plant for Easter, the blooms being forced. Before that time, both in England and France, it was considered as rather an ordinary variety of the rose, and was not held in high esteem. A new rose, faint, pink, and single, a climber, and evidently a wild flower, in its native land, has been used in large quantities for decorative purposes. The blossom is quite small and feathery, but massed the plants are most effective. The demand for pink flowers of any kind this year exceeds that of any other color. During the winter the Killarney rose led even the sterling favorite, the American Beauty.

The Hero to the Rescue.

From the Chicago News.

"You shall bite the dust!" hissed the villian, as he strutted down the stage.

The heroine trembled a few trembles.

Just then the hero, disguised as a sprinkling cart chauffeur, dashed down the pike with his machine.

That settled it. There was no dust left to bite.

"S-aved!" cried the heroine.

The Russian New Year.

From Judge.

"Russia is away behind the times in almost every way."

"Alas! yes. We, for instance, have had time to forget most of our splendid resolutions before the Russian with his old-fashioned calendar gets to the swearing-off place."